

Message Text

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SUBJECT: KEKKONEN VISIT

REF: STOCKHOLM 4193

1. FINNISH MEDIA CONTINUED TO GIVE PROMINENT PLAY TO
PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S US VISIT AUGUST 6 EMPHASIZING THE
AWARD CEREMONY AT UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND THE LATEST
DEVELOPMENTS IN POSSIBLE ICEBREAKER DEAL BETWEEN FINLAND
AND US. EDITORIAL COMMENT CENTERED ON PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S
OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY TO AMERICANS.

2. FINNISH RADIO CARRIED KEKKONEN INTERVIEW BY FBC'S NEW
YORK CORRESPONDENT JUSSI HIMANKA PRIOR TO PRESIDENT'S
DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK IN WHICH HE SAID: "THINGS HAVE
WORKED OUT WELL HERE...WE HAVE REALLY SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED
SOME QUESTIONS RELATED TO ECONOMIC EXCHANGE AND I PERSONALLY
AM VERY OPTIMISTIC IN THIS RESPECT."

3. WHILE FINLAND'S LEADING DAILY HELSINGIN SANOMAT (CIRC.
323,000) CARRIED A FOUR-COLUMN REPORT OF THE AWARD CEREMONY
AT MINNESOTA UNIVERSITY AND THE TEXT OF PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S
SPEECH STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL
EXCHANGE, OTHER NEWSPAPERS CONCENTRATED ON THE ICEBREAKER
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QUESTION. LEADING INDEPENDENT SWEDISH-LANGUAGE DAILY

HUFVUDSTADSBLADET (CIRC. 67,000) RAN A FRONT-PAGE DOMESTIC-PRODUCED STORY HEADLINED: "AFTER THE KEKKONEN STATEMENT: WARTSILA SHIPYARD READY FOR US ORDER" WITH A STATEMENT BY THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF THE SHIPYARD SAYING THAT AN ORDER WOULD NOT TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE. CONSERVATIVE UUSI SUOMI (CIRC. 84,000) ALSO LED WITH THE ICEBREAKERS UNDER A HEADLINE: "BID FOR THREE ICEBREAKERS FROM WARTSILA" NOTING THAT THE ICEBREAKER DEAL BETWEEN FINLAND AND THE UNITED STATES "TAKES A NEW STEP TODAY AS PRESIDENT KEKKONEN WILL BRING A BID REQUEST FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WARTSILA." FINNISH BROADCASTING COMPANY'S MAIN 9 P.M. TELEVISION NEWSCAST AUG 5 ALSO CARRIED A REPORT ON THE ICEBREAKER DEVELOPMENTS FROM YRJO LANSIPURO, MANAGING EDITOR OF THE TELEVISION NEWS COVERING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, WHO LISTED THE DETAILED DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING THE BIDDING.

4. HELSINGIN SANOMAT COMMENTED EDITORIALY ON THE VISIT AND SAID: "ON PRESIDENT KEKKONEN'S PREVIOUS VISITS TO THE US, THE MAIN ATTENTION WAS PAID TO THE OFFICIAL SIDE OF THE VISIT, SPEECHES AND THEIR EMPHASIS AND ON THE ASSESSMENTS OF FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY. OBVIOUSLY THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE TOP POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES OF FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS INCREASED TO THE EXTENT THAT THIS OFFICIAL SIDE COULD BE LEFT IN THE BACKGROUND THIS TIME. IN SPITE OF ITS OFFICIAL NATURE, THE VISIT THIS TIME WAS MAINLY A MEETING OF OLD FRIENDS AND TRADE.

"AFTER THE TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND PRESIDENT GERALD FORD, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE US STATE DEPARTMENT HAS A FAVORABLE ATTITUDE TO THE PURCHASE OF ICEBREAKERS FROM FINLAND. A GESTURE LIKE THIS IS AN INDICATION OF A FAVORABLE VIEW OF THE US POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TOWARD FINLAND AND OF THE ENERGY OF AMBASSADOR MARK AUSTAD WHO REPRESENTS THE UNITED STATES IN HELSINKI."

5. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC NEWSPAPER SUOMEN SOSIALIDEMOKRAATTI (CIRC. 44,000) IN ITS EDITORIAL FOCUSED ON THE OPPORTUNITY THE VISIT GAVE PRESIDENT KEKKONEN TO EXPLAIN FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS. "AT THE SAME TIME, THE TASK WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT WHEN UNCLASSIFIED

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WE REMEMBER THE INFECTED ATMOSPHERE OF DEBATE IN THE WEST, AND IN THE UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR, WHICH HAS FORCED MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN THE CAPITALIST COUNTRIES ON THE DEFENSIVE OR EVEN TO CHANGE THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD DETENTE INTO A MORE RESERVED ONE. THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION WAS NOT HELPED BY AN INCREDIBLY STUPID SLANDEROUS ARTICLE ON FINLAND'S FOREIGN POLICY ON THE EVE OF THE VISIT COMMISSIONED FROM A SWEDISH REPORTER BY THE WASHINGTON POST WHICH IS

GENERALLY REGARDED AS A QUALITY PAPER. IN THIS CASE, TOO,
THE MOTIVES OF THE ARTICLE ON "FINLANDIZATION" WERE QUITE
OBVIOUSLY DOMESTIC POLITICAL.
GROFF-SMITH

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